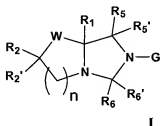


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A compound ~~or a prodrug ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a stereoisomer thereof~~ according to formula I



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

wherein

R₁ is selected from hydrogen (H), alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, CO₂R₄, CONR₄R₄' and CH₂OR₄;

R₂ and R₂' are each independently selected from hydrogen (H), alkyl, substituted alkyl, SR₃, halo, NHR₄, NHCOR₄, NHCO₂R₄, NHCONR₄R₄' and NHSO₂R₄;
and at least one of R₂ and R₂' is H or alkyl;

R₃ in each functional group is independently selected from hydrogen (H), alkyl or substituted alkyl, CHF₂, CF₃ and COR₄;

R₄ and R₄' in each functional group are each independently selected from hydrogen(H), alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, and aryl or substituted aryl;

R₅ and R₅' are each independently selected from hydrogen(H), alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl and arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, wherein at least one of R₅ and R₅' is hydrogen, or R₅ and R₅' taken together can form a double bond with oxygen (O), sulfur (S), NR₇ or CR₇R₇';

R₆ and R₆' are each independently at each occurrence selected from hydrogen(H), alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or

substituted cycloalkyl, and arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, wherein at least one of R_6 and R_6' is hydrogen, or R_6 and R_6' at each occurrence may be taken together to form a double bond with oxygen (O), sulfur (S), or CR_7R_7' ;

R_7 and R_7' in each functional group are each independently selected from hydrogen(H), OR_4 , alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, and aryl or substituted aryl;

G is an aryl group, wherein said group is mono- or polycyclic, and which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from hydrogen, halo, CN, CF_3 , OR_4 , CO_2R_4 , NR_4R_4' , $CONR_4R_4'$, CH_2OR_4 , alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, and aryl or substituted aryl;

W is selected from (CR_6R_6') , $C(R_6)OR_3$, or $C(R_6)(NR_4R_4')$; and

n is 1;

with the following provisos:

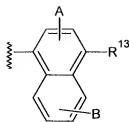
(a) when R_5 and R_5' and/or R_6 and R_6' form a double bond with CR_7R_7' , then when either R_7 or R_7' is OR_4 , R_4 is not hydrogen;

(b) when

(i) R_5 and R_5' are each H or taken together to be =O, =S or =CH₂,

(ii) R_6 and R_6' on the imidazolidine portion of the bicyclic structure shown are selected from hydrogen(H), alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, and arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, wherein at least one of R_6 and R_6' on the imidazolidine portion of the bicyclic structure shown is hydrogen, or R_6 and R_6' on the imidazolidine portion of the bicyclic structure shown are taken together to form a double bond with oxygen (O) or sulfur (S),

(iii) W is CR_6R_6' where R_6 and R_6' are each independently selected from H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl and arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, wherein at least one of R_6 and R_6' in W is H, and



(iv) G has the structure: , wherein

R_{13} is selected from the group consisting of H, CN, NO_2 , halo, OR_{14} , CO_2R_{15} , CONHR_{15} , COR_{15} , $\text{S(O)}_p\text{R}_{15}$, $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}_{15}\text{R}_{15}'$, NHCOR_{15} and $\text{NHSO}_2\text{R}_{15}$,

wherein p is an integer from 0 to 2,

R_{14} in each functional group is independently selected from H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, CHF_2 , CF_3 and COR_{15} ,

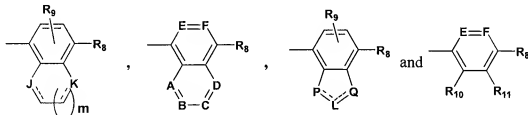
R_{15} and R_{15}' in each functional group are each independently selected from H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, and $-\text{CN}$,

and

A and B are each independently selected from H, halo, CN, NO_2 , alkyl or substituted alkyl and OR_{14} ,

then R_2 and R_2' are each independently selected from SR_3 and NHR_4 .

2. (Currently amended) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1 wherein G is selected from:



wherein

R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} and R_{11} are each independently selected from hydrogen (H), NO_2 , CN, CF_3 , OR_4 , CO_2R_4 , $\text{NR}_4\text{R}_4'$, $\text{CONR}_4\text{R}_4'$, CH_2OR_4 , alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted

alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, and aryl or substituted aryl;

A to F is each independently selected from CR₉;

J, K, L, P and Q are each independently selected from CR₁₂R₁₂';

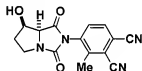
R₁₂ and R₁₂' in each functional group are each independently selected from a bond or R₁;
and

m is an integer of 0 or 1.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 2 wherein R₈ is -CN.

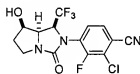
5. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is:



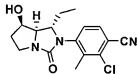
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 selected from:



and



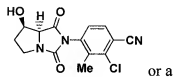
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

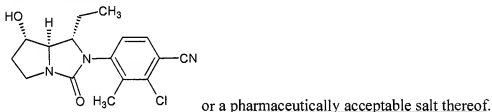
- (a) a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1; and
- (b) at least one pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claims 13-22 (cancelled)

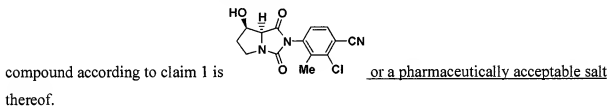
23. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



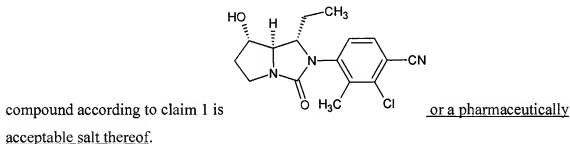
24. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is



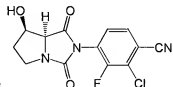
25. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein the



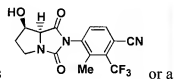
26. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein the



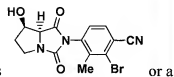
27. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



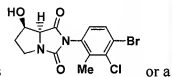
28. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



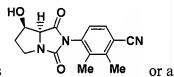
29. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



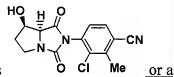
30. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



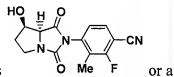
31. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



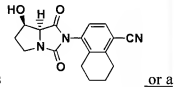
32. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



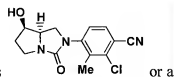
33. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



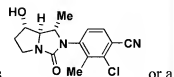
34. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



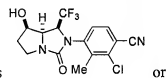
35. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



36. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



37. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



38. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 which is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

